



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 252

LCO No. 6173



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-456 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) There is established the Connecticut Food Policy Council, which
4 shall be within the Department of Agriculture for administrative
5 purposes only.

6 (b) [The] Until June 30, 2019, the council shall consist of the
7 following members: (1) One appointed by the majority leader of the
8 Senate who shall be involved in agriculture or in an agriculture
9 organization; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the
10 Senate who shall be involved in an antihunger organization; (3) one
11 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall represent the
12 Cooperative Extension Service; (4) one appointed by the minority
13 leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a food retailer; (5)
14 one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who
15 shall be involved in agriculture or in an agriculture organization; (6)

16 one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives
17 who shall be a produce wholesaler; (7) the Commissioner of
18 Agriculture, or his designee; (8) the Commissioner of Administrative
19 Services, or his designee; (9) the Commissioner of Education, or his
20 designee; (10) the Commissioner of Transportation, or his designee;
21 (11) the Commissioner of Public Health, or his designee; (12) the
22 Commissioner of Social Services, or his designee; (13) the head of each
23 state department, as defined in section 4-5, who is not one of the
24 commissioners designated in subdivisions (7) to (12), inclusive, of this
25 subsection who shall be members ex officio without the right to vote;
26 and (14) the chairman of the joint standing committee of the General
27 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment
28 who shall be a member ex officio without the right to vote. The term of
29 all members appointed under this subsection shall terminate on June
30 30, 2019.

31 (c) On and after July 1, 2019, the council shall consist of the
32 following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or a
33 designee; (2) the Commissioner of Administrative Services, or a
34 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee; (4) the
35 Commissioner of Transportation, or a designee; (5) the Commissioner
36 of Public Health, or a designee; (6) the Commissioner of Social
37 Services, or a designee; (7) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection,
38 or a designee; (8) the Commissioner of Economic and Community
39 Development, or a designee; (9) the Commissioner of Energy and
40 Environmental Protection, or a designee; (10) one who is a
41 representative of The University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension
42 Service, designated by the president of The University of Connecticut;
43 (11) two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
44 both of whom represent a local or state-wide food commission, council
45 or network; (12) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the
46 Senate, both of whom represent a local or state-wide food commission,
47 council or network; (13) one appointed by the majority leader of the
48 House of Representatives, who represents a local or state-wide food
49 commission, council or network; (14) one appointed by the majority

50 leader of the Senate, who represents a local or state-wide food
51 commission, council or network; (15) one appointed by the minority
52 leader of the House of Representatives, who represents a local or state-
53 wide food commission, council or network; (16) one appointed by the
54 minority leader of the Senate, who represents a local or state-wide food
55 commission, council or network; (17) one appointed by the Governor,
56 who is an agricultural producer; and (18) one appointed by the
57 Governor, who is a representative of an anti-hunger organization.

58 (d) Members of the council appointed under subsection (c) of this
59 section shall serve for three-year terms commencing on the date of
60 appointment, which for initial appointments shall be not later than
61 September 1, 2019. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
62 authority. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term
63 shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

64 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the council shall
65 elect [a chairperson] two chairpersons and a vice-chairperson from
66 among its members, provided one chairperson shall be a department
67 head and one chairperson shall be a public member. Any person
68 absent from [(A)] (1) three consecutive meetings of the commission or
69 [(B)] (2) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar year shall
70 be deemed to have resigned from the council, effective immediately.
71 Vacancies on the council shall be filled by the appointing authority.
72 Members of the council serve without compensation but shall, within
73 the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily
74 incurred in the performance of their duties. The council shall meet as
75 often as deemed necessary by the [chairperson] chairpersons or a
76 majority of the council.

77 [(c)] (f) The council shall [: (1) Develop, coordinate and implement a
78 food system policy linking local economic development,
79 environmental protection and preservation with farming and urban
80 issues; (2) review and comment on any proposed state legislation and
81 regulations that would affect the food policy system of the state; (3)]

82 examine food and nutrition-related programs, issues and policies, and
83 develop recommendations to promote a strong food economy and
84 support community access to healthy foods. The council may make
85 recommendations related to the following: (1) Increased collaboration
86 and communication among state agencies; (2) increased collaboration
87 and communication among local, state and federal agencies; (3)
88 opportunities to leverage private and public market influence, such as
89 through institutional purchasing and contracts; (4) modifications to
90 existing or proposed state or federal laws or regulations or policies
91 relevant to the food system, food economy, food security and access to
92 healthy foods in the state; (5) improvements to state or federal
93 program implementation relevant to the food system, food economy,
94 food security and access to healthy foods in the state; (6) identification
95 of additional federal, state, local and private investments needed to
96 accomplish the council's recommendations; and (7) any other topic
97 deemed relevant by the council.

98 (g) The council (1) shall advise and provide information to the
99 Governor on the state's food policy; [and (4)] (2) shall examine food
100 policy at the local level and coordinate with local entities on existing
101 and proposed local food policy; (3) may work with local and state-
102 wide food networks and commissions on food action planning
103 activities; and (4) shall prepare and submit to [the joint standing
104 committee of] the General Assembly, [having cognizance of matters
105 relating to the environment] in accordance with the provisions of
106 section 11-4a, an annual report concerning its activities with any
107 [appropriate] recommendations [concerning food policy] for
108 legislation.

109 [(d)] (h) The council may use such funds as may be available from
110 federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out
111 the purposes of this section.

112 [(e)] (i) The council may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67,
113 employ any necessary staff within available appropriations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2019	22-456
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Statement of Purpose:

To amend the membership and duties of the Connecticut Food Policy Council.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.

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